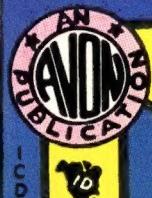
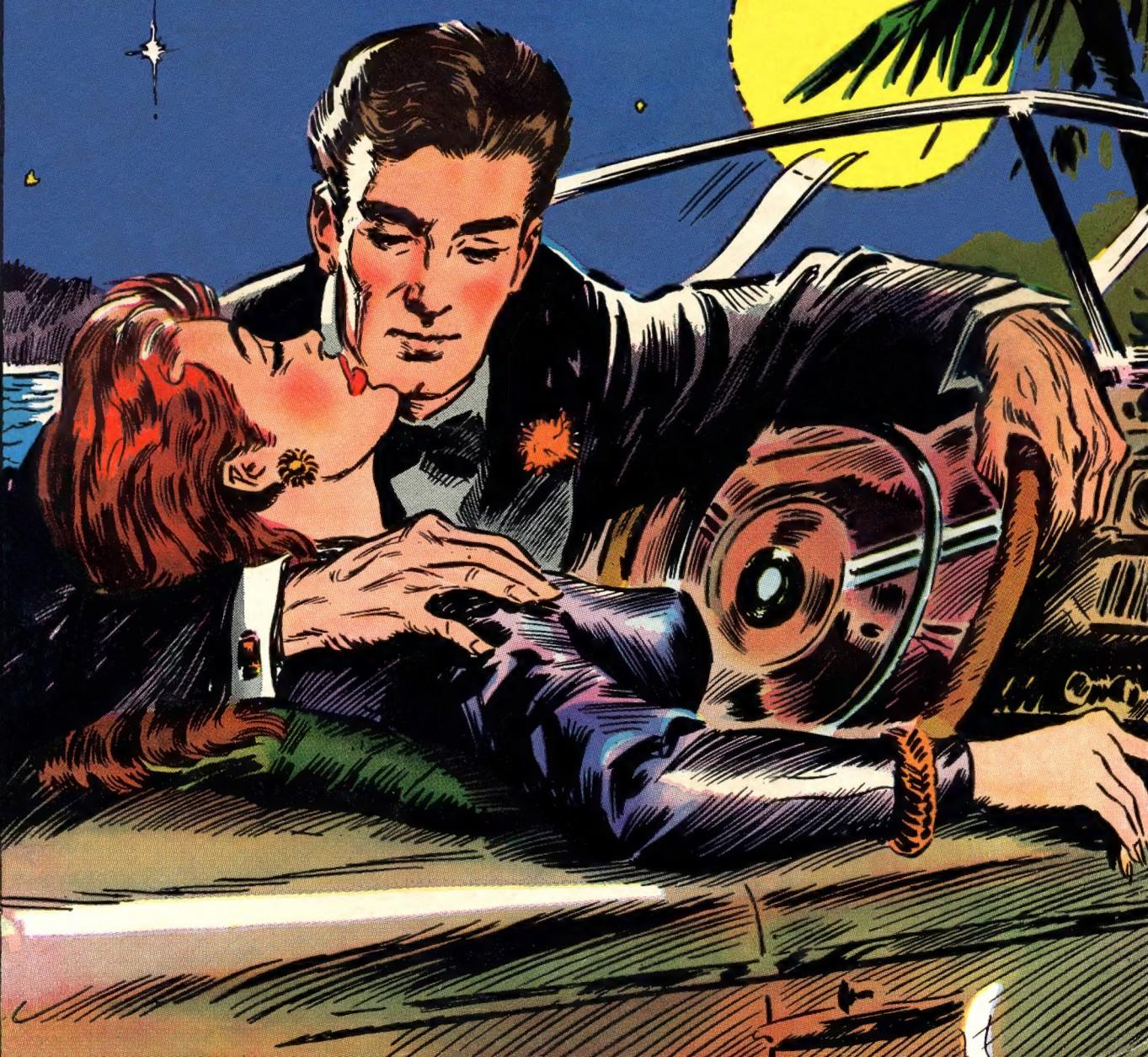


No. 16 JUNE-JULY 10c



# REALISTIC Romances

MY SCANDALOUS AFFAIR!



**AMAZING  
OFFER**

# **FREE!**

**100 FOREIGN STAMPS**  
*from all corners of the world*  
**GUARANTEED WORTH \$1.00**  
**AT STANDARD CATALOG PRICES**

and Souvenir of World's Rarest Stamp

RUSH coupon at once. We'll send you by return mail this gigantic offer — 100 stamps from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Near East and Far East. GUARANTEED WORTH \$1.00 at Standard Catalog prices. No telling what you'll find. NO COST TO YOU!

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There are beautiful big pictorials, commemoratives — stamps from great empires and tiny republics. You'll find wild animals, far-off places and famous people on these wonderful stamps — even some from "iron-curtain" countries. Since no one has examined them, you may even find real hidden treasures, worth REAL MONEY.

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Valuable illustrated STAMP COLLECTOR'S GUIDE — tells how to start a collection, where to find rare stamps, tips on collecting, how to buy and sell stamps, and other helpful hints, act NOW!



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Rush me FREE 100 FOREIGN Stamps, Rarest Stamp Souvenir and STAMP COLLECTOR'S GUIDE.

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Here you will read about how an English schoolboy, in 1873, discovered this rarest of all stamps in history — and having no idea of its value, sold it for only \$1.50. You'll read of its introduction and be valued at \$50,000 today! Yet this beautiful reproduction of the fascinating story and historic offer! This Limited Edition offer is all yours FREE with this draw soon, so don't miss this chance. MAIL COUPON TODAY.

British Guiana, and having no idea of its value, sold it for only \$1.50. You'll read of its introduction and be valued at \$50,000 today! Yet this beautiful reproduction of the fascinating story and historic offer! This Limited Edition offer is all yours FREE with this draw soon, so don't miss this chance. MAIL COUPON TODAY.

**ACT NOW!**  
WHILE SUPPLY LASTS

SALLY WAS A TOUGH GIRL  
DESPITE HER YOUNG YEARS...  
SO TOUGH THAT REAL LOVE  
AND HAPPINESS COULD NOT  
PENETRATE THE SHELL OF  
FEIGNED PASSION IN WHICH  
SHE HAD CLOAKED HERSELF,  
IN AN EFFORT TO BE...

# Thrill Crazy

THIS IS IT, BABY! YOU AN' I WERE  
MEANT TO BE A TEAM! THINK OF  
IT! THRILLS, EXCITEMENT, LAUGHS!

OH, NICK... I--I  
DON'T KNOW! GIVE  
ME TIME... TO THINK...



THE CRANMOOR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS TRANSFORMED  
GIGGLING, AWKWARD ADOLESCENTS INTO SOPHISTICATED  
YOUNG LADIES... IT WAS ALSO VERY EXPENSIVE! BUT  
NONE OF THE INCOMING FRESHMEN SEEMED TO BE  
AWARE OF THIS FACT...

OH, LOOK, DEBBIE... ISN'T  
THIS PLACE DIVINE?

I HOPE WE'LL HAVE  
GOOD-LOOKING MEN  
TEACHERS.. HA, HA...



NONE, EXCEPT SALLY WINTERS---

SO THIS IS CRANMORE! POOR  
MOTHER! HOW NAIVE SHE WAS TO  
SPEND HER MONEY ON A PLACE  
LIKE THIS!



AND IN HER MIND CAME A PICTURE OF THE HOME SHE LEFT...A HOME THAT WAS IN STRANGE CONTRAST TO THE PALATIAL SPLENDOUR OF THE SCHOOL IN WHICH SHE WAS TO REGISTER.

NOW, SALLY.. Y-YOUR STEP-FATHER DOESN'T WANT YOU STAYING OUT LATE AT NIGHTS... I-I HAVE SOME MONEY...AND...

DON'T SAY IT, MOTHER! I KNOW WHAT'S COMING...



WHY DON'T YOU ADMIT THAT MY LOVING STEP-FATHER PLAYS UP TO ME WHENEVER YOUR BACK IS TURNED?

SALLY, I'VE SCRIMPED AND STARVED FOR THIS MONEY.. SO YOU CAN GO TO SCHOOL.. AND LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.. SO THAT YOU'LL NEVER SUFFER LIKE ME..NEVER.. NEVER!



OH, MOTHER...STOP CRYING . NOW I.. ALL RIGHT.. IF YOU WANT IT THAT WAY..I GUESS ONE PLACE IS JUST AS GOOD AS ANOTHER! BESIDES.. I WAS GETTING TIRED OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.. NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS HERE!



BUT FUN TO SALLY MEANT OTHER THINGS THAN NEW FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES...

HELLO.. MY NAME IS DORIS MANNING.. I'M YOUR NEW ROOM-MATE HERE IN SCHOOL!

EXCUSE ME... I'M BUSY!



SCHOOL TERM STARTED. LIFE GREW COMPLICATED FOR THE CITY GIRL..WHAT WITH CLASSES,ETIQUETTE SESSIONS, GYMNASTICS, AND TEA LUNCHEONS WITH THE FACULTY...

OCCASIONALLY, HOWEVER, SOCIALS WERE HELD IN THE GYMNASIUM DURING WEEKENDS AND STUDENTS FROM NEARBY SCHOOLS WERE ALSO INVITED. SALLY, WHO HAD REMAINED ALOOF FROM EVERYTHING, NOW GREW REALLY INTERESTED!



BUT SALLY'S ACT WAS NOT LOST ON HER FELLOW STUDENTS.

LOOK AT THAT BRAZEN CAT TRYING TO SNARE YOU, BOB!

VALERIE... HA... HA... I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE JEALOUS! H'MM... SHE'S VERY BEAUTIFUL. I THINK I'D LIKE TO BE TRAPPED BY HER!



AS BOB PUT HIS STRONG ARMS AROUND SALLY, SHE FELT HERSELF GROW WEAK FROM HIS NEARNESS... AND THE MAGIC OF HIS TOUCH WAS BEGINNING TO AWAKEN HER DESIRE FOR EXCITEMENT...

I COULD DANCE WITH YOU ALL NIGHT, SALLY!

THEN WHY DON'T YOU? OH, BOB... HOLD ME CLOSE.



SOON IT WAS TIME TO GO HOME... TO SALLY, IT HAD ALL BEEN A WONDERFUL NIGHT OF ECSTASY AND SHE KNEW THEN THAT A NEW LIFE HAD BEGUN!

SALLY... SALLY... I... I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE... MAY I SEE YOU AGAIN?



EXCUSE ME... WOULD YOU CARE TO DANCE?

WHY, YES...



ALL THE NEXT DAY, SALLY THOUGHT OF NOTHING BUT BOB, BOB, BOB! BUT HE HAD GONE BACK TO SCHOOL AND WOULDN'T RETURN TO CRANMOOR FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS!

SAY, HANK... WHO'S THAT SWELL DISH OVER THERE AT THAT TABLE? SHE LOOKS KIND OF LONESOME.

LET'S GO FIND OUT!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE SALLY AND THE YOUNG MEN WERE GOOD FRIENDS...

HA, HA! TELL ME MORE, HANK!

WELL, I SAYS TO THE COP, "LOOK HERE YOU... IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SO TOUGH, WHY DON'T YOU CLIMB OF'N YOUR R MOTORCYCLE AND DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT IT."



SOON IT BECAME APPARENT TO BOTH HANK AND HIS FRIEND THAT SHE WAS NO ORDINARY GIRL! HERE WAS INSTEAD,--- A HELLCAT!

HEY, WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A DRIVE?

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA! BUT I DO THE DRIVING! OF COURSE, IF YOU'RE AFRAID TO GO 100 MILES AN HOUR!

ULP--W--WHO'S AFRAID? L--LET'S GO!



SO BEGAN A DUAL EXISTENCE FOR SALLY. IN THE DAY-TIME, AT SCHOOL, SHE WAS THE VERY PROPER MISS WINTERS. AT NIGHT, IN TOWN, ALL KNEW HER AS... THRILL CRAZY SALLY...

HIA, JOE! HOW ABOUT JOINING US?

YEAH... DON'T MIND IF I DO!



THE DAYS PASSED BY, AND SALLY BEGAN MORE AND MORE TO NEGLECT HER SCHOOL WORK FOR THE LURE OF TOWN. NOW SHE HAD MET NICK FERRANTI, A HANDSOME, SMOOTH-TALKING STRANGER...

HELLO, BABY!  
DIDJA MISS ME?

IF YOU ONLY KNEW  
HOW MUCH! I CUT TWO  
CLASSES TODAY JUST  
FOR YOU!



OKAY! TAKE YOUR TIME DECIDIN'! BUT REMEMBER! YOU'RE *MY* GIRL FROM NOW ON... AND WHAT I SAY... GOES!

YES, NICK, YES...!



SOON... SALLY BECAME THE ENVY OF HER SCHOOL-CHUMS!

SALLY... THAT FUR PIECE  
YOU HAVE ON... IT'S  
SIMPLY STUNNING!

OH, IT'S NOTHING, REALLY!  
THERE'S PLENTY MORE  
WHERE THAT CAME FROM!



LATER... I'M NUTS  
ABOUT YOU,  
SALLY! HOW ABOUT  
HITCHING UP WITH  
ME?

NO... I COULDN'T DO  
THAT, NICK! IT'S NOT  
THAT I DON'T LOVE  
YOU, BUT I WANT TO  
HAVE FUN...LOTS OF  
IT-- BEFORE I MARRY!



IN SCHOOL, SALLY NOW BECAME A POPULAR GIRL! SHE HAD MONEY, CLOTHES, POWERFUL FRIENDS...

SALLY... I... CAN YOU LEND ME ONE  
OF YOUR DRESSES? TOM IS COMING  
HERE TONIGHT TO SEE ME AND...

HERE, HONEY! KEEP  
IT! IT'S YOURS!...  
AND GOOD LUCK WITH  
THE BOY FRIEND!



IN NO TIME AT ALL, SALLY, THE YOUNGEST GIRL IN SCHOOL, WAS ACCEPTED INTO ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL SORORITIES ON THE CAMPUS!

ALL IN FAVOR OF SALLY WINTERS' NOMINATION SAY AYE!

AYE!

AND SOON BECAME THE LEADER OF THE GROUP...

WELL, WHAT SHALL WE DO TONIGHT? LET'S GO INTO TOWN! I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF MY FRIENDS.



THE CRANMOOR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS HAD STUMBLED ON A GOLD MINE! FROM THAT DAY ON, SALLY WAS THE UNDISPUTED PARTY-GIRL...

GIRLS, THIS IS HANK, JOE, STEVE...

HELLO!



WHEW! DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED O' GIVIN' ANOTHER PARTY? I'M CALLING IT A NIGHT!

OH, COME ON! WHY BE A KILL-JOY? HOLD ME CLOSE... THAT'S IT! NOW TELL ME YOU WANT TO LEAVE... GO AHEAD!

LISTEN, BABY! THIS IS KID STUFF! WHAT I HAVE IN MIND FOR US IS BIGGER THAN ANYTHING THIS TOWN CAN OFFER! SAY THE WORD, SALLY... AND WE'LL LIVE, HIGH, WIDE, AN' HANDSOME!

I NEED MORE TIME, SWEETHEART... MORE TIME!



SALLY DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT SHE WAS SOON TO MAKE HER DECISION VERY FAST... MISS WINTERS! I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A DISGRACEFUL REPORT CONCERNING YOUR CONDUCT AND... AND PRIVATE LIFE OUT OF SCHOOL! NEVER HAVE I EVER BEEN SO HUMILIATED BY ONE OF OUR STUDENTS! I AM FORCED TO EXPEL YOU!



TWO DAYS LATER, AFTER MOVING HER BELONGINGS INTO TOWN, SALLY RECEIVED A VISITOR... IT WAS BOB!

THE GIRLS TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED, SALLY! HOW COULD YOU ACT LIKE THIS BEHIND MY BACK? I THOUGHT YOU AND I WERE... WELL... IN LOVE!

LOVE? HA! DID YOU WANT ME TO SIT AND WAIT DURING THE DAYS I DIDN'T SEE YOU? I'M NOT THAT DUMB!

I KNOW ABOUT NICK FERRANTI! HE'S NO GOOD, SALLY! GO BACK HOME... DO ANYTHING... BUT STAY AWAY FROM HIM!

GO BACK HOME?... TO A LIFE OF MISERY... OF POVERTY? NEVER! NICK AT LEAST IS GOOD FOR PLENTY OF MONEY AND THRILLS. YOU OFFER ME - NOTHING!



I'M OFFERING YOU A CHANCE FOR HAPPINESS... BUT I CAN SEE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! GOODBYE, SALLY... I HOPE YOU DON'T REGRET YOUR CHOICE!

I'M SURE I WON'T! NICK WILL LOOK OUT FOR ME!



SOME HOURS LATER, SALLY, WITH PACKED SUIT-CASES, MET NICK FERRANTI IN FRONT OF HER HOUSE... TAKE ME OUT OF THIS PLACE, NICK!

SURE, BABY, SURE! GET IN!



WHEN YOU KISS ME LIKE THIS... I FEEL READY TO TACKLE ANYTHING...

THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE! RIGHT AFTER WE SEE THE PREACHER, IT WILL BE YOU AN' ME AGAINST THE WORLD!



THE NEXT FEW MONTHS SAW NICK FERRANTI MAKE GOOD ON HIS PROMISE TO SALLY! THE COUPLE EMBARKED ON A SERIES OF FILLING-STATION ROBBERIES THAT GAVE THEM THE CASH TO HAVE BIGGER AND BETTER CELEBRATIONS...



IN TIME, THE REPUTATION OF THE THRILL-CRAZY PAIR SPREAD, FAR AND WIDE. BUT FATE WAS BOUND TO CATCH UP WITH THEM.

HELLO, HANDSOME! FILL HER UP, WILL YOU?

SURE WILL MA'AM! ANYTHING YOU SAY!



OKAY, SUCKER-- UP WITH THE MITTS! Y-YOU'RE THAT CRAZY PAIR--HELP! POLICE!!



STOP--IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!

COPS! WHY... YOU DIRTY RATS.

NO, NICK! NO! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

BANG! BANG! BANG!

AAAAAGH!

YOU'VE KILLED HIM... KILLED HIM!

GRAB HER-- CAREFUL NOW!



I... I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I BEGGED HIM NOT TO PULL ANY MORE ROBBERIES... BUT HE FORCED ME. I... I'M INNOCENT!

I'M SORRY, YOUNG LADY! WE HAVE WITNESSES FROM YOUR PREVIOUS HOLDUPS WHO SAY IT WAS YOU WHO APPEARED TO BE ENJOYING THIS! NOW COME ALONG QUIETLY!



TWO WEEKS LATER, SALLY STOOD TRIAL AND HEARD HERSELF CONDEMNED! TOO LATE DID SHE BEG FOR ANOTHER CHANCE AT GOODNESS AND DECENCY! HER ABNORMAL DESIRE FOR EXCITEMENT HAD FINALLY LED HER TO THIS!

SALLY WINTERS, I SENTENCE YOU TO THREE YEARS AT ELMIRA REFORMATORY, AFTER WHICH YOU WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO WOMEN'S STATE PRISON FOR A TERM OF 10 TO 20 YEARS!



# THE SHAME IS MINE!



I MET ANDY LEE BY ACCIDENT AT THE NIGHT CLUB  
I WORKED AT... IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF  
WE HAD NEVER MET AT ALL... PLEASE! YOU'LL

HIYA, BABY! COME GET ME INTO TROUBLE!  
TO PAPA!

AW COME ON, HONEY... PLEASE! LET ME ALONE!  
I GO FOR YOU! I'LL HELP YOU, MISS!



SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO TEAR AWAY, AS A GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN FROM THE NEXT TABLE CAME TO MY RESCUE...

WHAT'SA MATTER?  
AREN'T YOU GONNA GIMME ONE  
LI'L KISS...UNHH!

YOU ASKED FOR IT, MISTER!



I HOPE HE DIDN'T HURT YOU, MISS. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

OH YES! I...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU.



I'LL TELL YOU HOW. WOULD YOU HAVE SUPPER WITH ME WHEN YOU FINISH UP HERE? I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU...ER...I'M ANDY LEE.

AND I'M DORIS KENTON...ALL RIGHT, MR. LEE, I'LL HAVE SUPPER WITH YOU. YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A WOLF TO ME.



ANDY TURNED OUT TO BE A VERY ENGAGING YOUNG MAN AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE WERE GOOD FRIENDS...

MR. LEE, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE AWFULLY NICE. I'M GLAD I CAME.

SO AM I. YOU'RE THE VERY PERSON I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR...HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE SOME EXTRA MONEY?



EXTRA MONEY! I WOULDN'T MIND THAT AT ALL. BUT FIRST TELL ME WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

I SELL PERFUME AND YOU'RE THE PERFECT OUTLET FOR IT. IN A NIGHT-CLUB, PEOPLE BUY ANYTHING. YOU COULD SELL IT ALONG WITH THE GARDENIAS AND CIGARETTES.



I SPLIT FIFTY-FIFTY WITH YOU ON EVERY BOTTLE YOU SELL. HOW ABOUT IT?

IT SOUNDS WONDERFUL! WHEN DO I BEGIN?

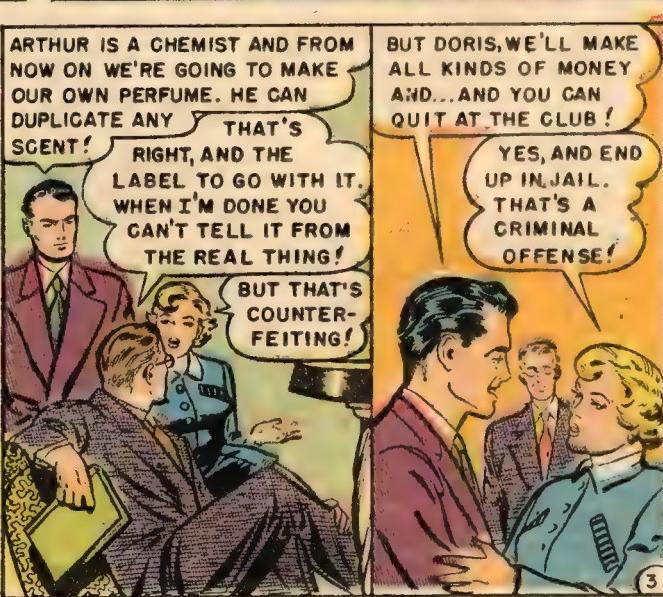


IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, ANDY AND I BECAME FAST FRIENDS. THE PERFUME SOLD WELL AND WE BOTH MADE A LOT OF MONEY...ONE NIGHT...

OH! IT'S BEAUTIFUL UP HERE, ANDY. I COULD STAY HERE FOREVER. I'LL NEVER STOP THANKING THE FATES FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER.

ME TOO, HONEY. THIS IS A PERFECT PARTNERSHIP.





NO MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. WITH THIS DEAL WE'LL MAKE ENOUGH TO QUIT THIS SORT OF THING FOR GOOD.

PEOPLE DON'T KNOW PERFUMES ANYWAY. YOU CAN'T GET CAUGHT.

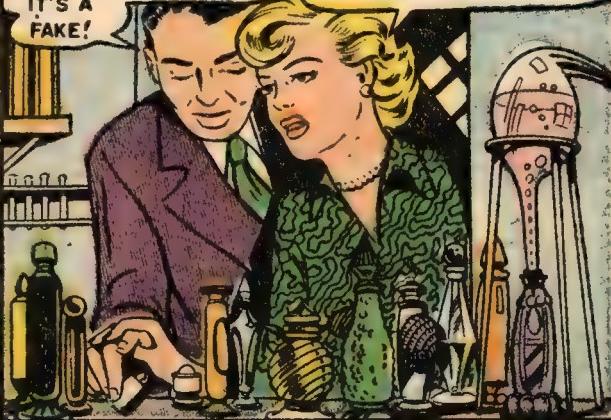
WELL, IF ANDY SAYS IT'S ALL RIGHT, I...I'LL GO ALONG.



IN A FEW WEEKS WE WERE READY TO START. IN MY HEART I KNEW IT WAS WRONG, BUT MY LOVE FOR ANDY KEPT ME FROM BACKING OUT...

SMELL THAT STUFF, HONEY. YOU CAN HARDLY TELL IT'S A FAKE!

OH, ANDY, IF YOU SHOULD GET CAUGHT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO!



STOP WORRYING, DARLING. WE'LL MAKE OUR PILE AND THEN QUIT. WITH THE MONEY WE MAKE OUT OF THIS, WE CAN BE MARRIED.

OH, ANDY DARLING, I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.



AS OUR LIPS MET AND HE PRESSED ME CLOSE TO HIM, ALL MY WORRIES FLED AND I WAS WILLING TO FOLLOW ANDY TO THE END OF THE WORLD...

MY DARLING... ANDY.. ANDY...



THE THOUGHT OF MARRIAGE TO ANDY BLINDED ME EVEN MORE. A FEW DAYS LATER I WAS IN EVEN DEEPER...

NO, BUT I CAN HELP YOU. IS THERE SOMEWHERE WE CAN TALK?

DRUGS



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

YOU'RE SURE THIS POSITIVE! THEY'RE WON'T GET OUT? FOOLPROOF! AND REMEMBER, THE PRICE IS HALF WHAT YOU USUALLY PAY. IS IT A DEAL?

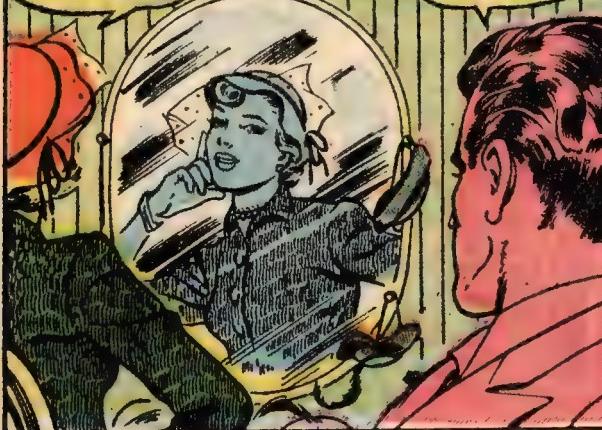


IT'S A DEAL. I'LL COME, COME. WRITE YOU OUT A CHECK. BETTER THAN THAT. CASH, MY FRIEND, CASH.



ANDY WAS RIGHT. MONEY FLOWED IN AND I BEGAN TO ENJOY MYSELF...I WENT ON A BUYING SPREE...HATS...

OH! THIS IS BEAUTIFUL! SO WHAT! THERE'S PLENTY BUT IT'S SEVENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!



A MINK COAT...

IT'S GORGEOUS! ALL MY LIFE I'VE wanted A COAT LIKE THIS!

IT'S YOURS. IF BUSINESS KEEPS UP THE WAY IT HAS, YOU CAN HAVE SIX OF THEM!



OH, DON'T BE A WORRY WART. MAYBE NOT, BUT YOU'RE NO FLEA. WE'RE HURT A FLEA. GOING TO GET MARRIED, REMEMBER?



LET'S MAKE THIS OUR LAST BIG FLING AND THEN WE'LL GET OUT.

OKAY, YOU WIN! ...TO THINK YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS AGAINST THE IDEA...SO LONG, HONEY.



DRESSES...

THIS ONE IS TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS, MA'MSELLE.



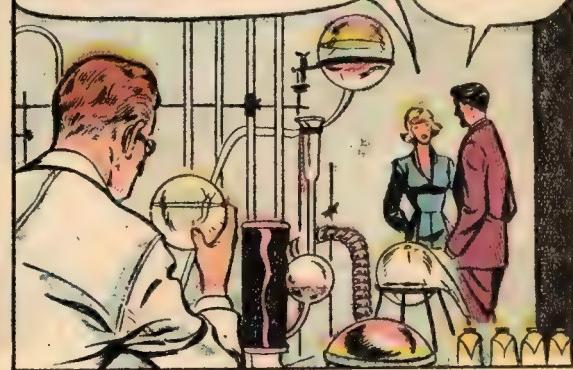
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S TERRIFIC. BUY IT, HONEY.

OH, ANDY!

THINGS WERE TOO GOOD TO LAST, BUT WE WERE RIDING HIGH AND DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO STOP...

ANDY, I'M GOING TO THE CLUB WHERE I USED TO WORK TO SEE MARCO. I CAN GET HIM TO USE OUR PERFUME IN ALL OF HIS CLUBS. I WON'T TELL HIM THEY'RE FAKES. I'LL USE THE HOT STUFF ANGLE.

I DON'T KNOW, DORIS. HE'S A TOUGH BABY. I DON'T LIKE HARD BOYS.



MARCO WENT FOR THE IDEA HOOK, LINE AND SINKER...

WELL, IT'S HOT STUFF.. YOU'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA THERE. HOW COME YOU NEVER CAME HERE WITH IT BEFORE, BABY?

AND YOU KNOW...



HERE, BABY. I WANT FOUR DOZEN ASSORTED BOTTLES FOR EACH OF MY CLUBS. THE GALS WILL PAY ME, OF COURSE.

I DON'T CARE HOW YOU WORK IT, MARCO, AS LONG AS WE GET PAID.



LATER...

THERE YOU ARE, DARLING. I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE A CINCH.

MAYBE, IF MARCO EVER FINDS OUT THAT STUFF ISN'T THE MCGOY, WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY.



FOR AWHILE MARCO WAS OUR BEST CUSTOMER. THEN THE INEVITABLE HAPPENED...

THE DOORBELL! WHO COULD THAT BE?

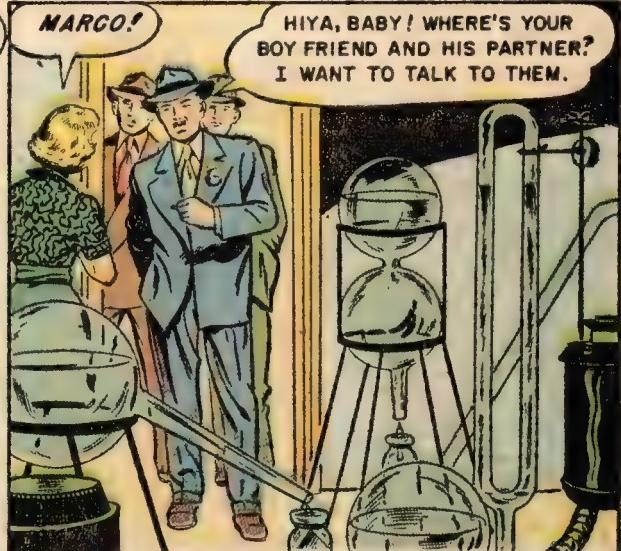
I DON'T KNOW. THERE ISN'T A SOUL THAT KNOWS ABOUT THIS PLACE! HIDE THE STUFF WHILE I GO SEE!



WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR I GOT A SHOCK...

MARCO!

HIYA, BABY! WHERE'S YOUR BOY FRIEND AND HIS PARTNER? I WANT TO TALK TO THEM.



THEY'RE NOT HERE NOW...THEY..THEY WENT OUT. CUT IT, SISTER...

I KNEW BUSY LITTLE DOUBLE-CROSSIN' RATS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BE OUT...COME HERE, YOU TWO!



ALL RIGHT, WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE, MARCO?

CUT IT OUT! YA GAVE ME ENOUGH OF A SLEIGH RIDE. NOW I'M CUTTIN' IN ON THE PROFITS. FROM NOW ON, YOU BOYS WORK FOR ME!



JUST LIKE THAT, HUH? YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT. SHOW 'EM WHAT I MEAN, BOYS!

OKAY, BOSS. WHEN WE FINISH WITH THESE PANTY-WAISTS THEY'LL BE GLAD TO WORK FOR YA!





SUDDENLY WHAT SEEMED LIKE A MIRACLE OCCURRED. THROUGH THE DOOR CAME AGENTS OF THE F.B.I.....



I..I DON'T UNDER- WE  
STAND. HOW-HOW TRAILED YOU  
DID YOU THROUGH MARCO.  
FIND US? WE'VE BEEN WATCHING  
THE STUFF GO THROUGH THERE  
FOR WEEKS.



A FEW MINUTES LATER THEY  
LED US OUT...

HONEY, I'M A RAT! I GOT YOU INTO THIS.  
WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN.

I'VE BEEN JUST AS BIG A ONE.  
DON'T WORRY. SOMEDAY THIS WILL BE OVER  
AND WE CAN START ALL OVER AGAIN. HONESTLY THIS TIME.



A FEW MONTHS LATER WE RECEIVED SENTENCES AND I WAS SENT TO THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION ...

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE ANDY AND I WILL BOTH BE OUT. WE'VE LEARNED OUR LESSON. I KNOW THE SHAME IS MINE----BUT I HAVE A NEW LIFE AHEAD OF ME.



# MY SCANDALOUS AFFAIR!

PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT GIRLS LIKE ME--WILD TEEN-AGED KIDS WHO DARE TO DO THINGS THAT NO NICE GIRLS DO! DON'T TURN YOUR FACE AWAY IN SCORN WHEN YOU COME UPON THEM. THEY MAY HATE YOU FOR BUTTING IN, BUT THEY MAY ALSO NEED YOUR HELP!

COME ON, CLAIRE!  
DON'T BE A WET  
BLANKET! JUST TRY  
ONE AND YOU'LL  
NEVER BE  
WITHOUT 'EM!

WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT THEY  
DO FOR YOU,  
CLAIRE!

WELL,  
HERE GOES!



"MY SOPHOMORE YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS A HELTER-SKELTER ONE. I WAS MORE DARING THAN ANY OF THE GIRLS, AND ABOUT AS WILD AS A BOY. IT WAS MY FORMULA FOR POPULARITY..."

WHEEEEEEEEE!  
STEP ON IT!  
TAKE THE  
NEXT CORNER  
WIDE OPEN!



BY THE TIME I HAD BECOME A SENIOR, I KEPT POPULAR WITH THE BOYS THROUGH THE USE OF METHODS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT...



IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME THAT MOST OF THE GIRLS HATED ME. BUT I WAS ANNOYED ABOUT THE WAY DICK LAUDER WAS AVOIDING ME...

DICK! DICK  
LAUDER!  
WAIT A  
MINUTE!

HMM? WHAT  
IS IT, CLAIRE?



WHAT HAD GOTTEN INTO THE SAP? I HAD ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO GET A RESPONSE FROM DICK! HE WAS THE BOY NEXT DOOR! HE HAD BEEN IN LOVE WITH ME ALL HIS LIFE! I WAS SURE OF IT...



I'LL MAKE HIM PAY FOR THOSE REMARKS! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, ANYWAY?



THAT SAME AFTERNOON I FOUND NEIL BALDWIN WAITING FOR ME WITH HIS FATHER'S CAR. DICK LAUDER HAD ALREADY CALLED TO ME AND I KNEW HE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAY HE HAD SPOKEN..



HEY, CLAIRE! GET COUNT ME IN, CHICK! JUDY IN! I'VE BEEN BORED TO DEATH WITH SOME OF THE PEOPLE I'VE MET TODAY!



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ANGEL-FACE DICK?

THE JERK! DON'T MENTION HIM! WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



NEIL DROVE TO A CELLAR DIVE ON THE WEST SIDE. IT WAS STUFFY THERE, BUT THE MUSIC WAS HOT...

YOU KNOW ALL THE OUT-OF-THE WAY PLACES, NEIL!

I'VE BEEN AROUND A LITTLE. THIS IS A CRUMB JOINT, BUT IT'LL DO FOR A STARTER!



WHAT NEIL CALLED A STARTER LASTED THROUGH THE SUPPER HOUR... BY EIGHT, OUR SPIRITS HAD RISEN... BY NINE WE WERE READY FOR ANYTHING.....

LET'S BLOW! I KNOW A PLACE THAT'S OPEN ALL NIGHT!

GET TED AND JUDY OUT OF THAT CLINCH, WHILE I LET 'EM KNOW AT HOME.



PHONING HOME MEANT A HOUSE-KEEPER OR A BUSY STEPFATHER. IT HAD BEEN THAT WAY SINCE I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD, THE YEAR MY MOTHER HAD DIED...

IT'S CLAIRE, MR. DOW. SHE WON'T BE HOME TILL LATE. DON'T YOU THINK--

I DON'T INTERFERE. LET HER MAKE HER OWN MISTAKES AND LEARN HER OWN LESSONS. I'M LATE FOR THE CLUB!

IT WAS THE MAKINGS OF A WILD NIGHT, AND MOST LIKELY WHAT HAPPENED, AS WE SPED ALONG THE ROAD, COULD BE TERMED A BLESSING IN DISGUISE...

ARE YOU SURE YOU LOVE ME, I TELL THEM ALL, BUT ONLY MEAN FOR YOU!

IT'S WHAT CLAIRE, OR IS THAT WHAT YOU TELL ALL THE BOYS! NEIL! FOR HEAVEN-SAKES! LOOK OUT!



IT WAS ONE OF THOSE ACCIDENTS THAT USUALLY PROVE FATAL, BUT LUCKILY, WE WERE ONLY BADLY SHAKEN. I WAS FEELING BETTER THE NEXT DAY, WHEN MY STEPFATHER CAME TO SEE ME...



YOU LITTLE FOOL! NOT ONLY HAVE YOU MADE A SPECTACLE OF YOURSELF, BUT YOU'VE BROUGHT PUBLIC CRITICISM AGAINST ME!

IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY, FATHER?



I'M WARNING YOU, CLAIRE! IF YOU EVER THREATEN THE GOOD NAME OF OUR HOUSEHOLD AGAIN, I'LL TAKE STEPS YOU'LL REGRET AS LONG AS YOU LIVE!



HIS FACE RIGID WITH ANGER, MY STEPFATHER LEFT. I BURST INTO TEARS.

I'LL LEAVE HOME AND NEVER RETURN! SOBEI I HATE HIM!

CLAIRE, SOMEONE TO SEE YOU!



I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR ACCIDENT.

OH, REALLY!



I'LL BET YOU'RE SORRY! YOU CAME HERE TO SAY, "I TOLD YOU!" GET OUT AND TAKE YOUR FLOWERS!

CLAIRE!



BY THE NEXT WEEK I WAS BACK IN CIRCULATION, MY STEP-FATHER'S WARNING FORGOTTEN, AS I basked IN THE LIGHT OF MALE ATTENTION...



I HEAR NEIL'S OLD MAN WAS BOILIN'! BUT HE'S GOT PLENTY OF DOUGH AND INFLUENCE. HE HAD THE CASE SQUASHED.

WHAT WAS THERE TO SQUASH? IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.



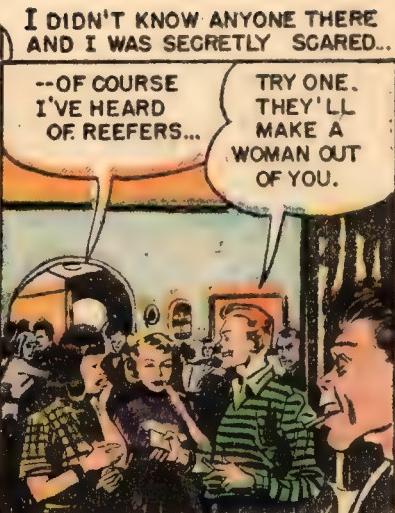
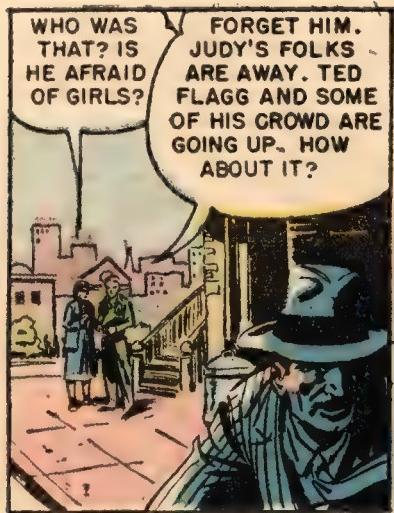
IT WAS AFTER SCHOOL ONE DAY, THAT I SAW NEIL TALKING WITH A STRANGER. I CALLED. HE TURNED FURTIVELY...



HI, NEIL!

UH...OH, HI, CLAIRE!





FOR ONCE I WAS FRIGHTENED; BUT AFRAID TO ADMIT IT. I HOPED NEIL WOULD OVERLOOK ME...BUT...



I INHALED A FEW MORE PUFFS AND BEGAN TO GROW DEATHLY SICK! I TRIED TO HANG ON, TO HIDE MY REAL FEELINGS. BUT AT LAST...



IN TERROR I RUSHED FOR THE DOOR. NEIL'S EYES WERE WILD! IF HE CAUGHT ME HE MIGHT KILL ME! AND SO...



LEAVING HAT, COAT AND BAG, I RUSHED OUT TO THE STREET! I HURRIED INTO A DRUG STORE, HAUNTED BY THE FEAR THAT NEIL MIGHT BE FOLLOWING ME...



DICK... PLEASE.. COULD YOU PICK ME UP AT MAIN AVENUE? I--I WAS AT A MOVIE, AND... BECAME VERY ILL...



DICK'S DRIVING ME HOME AND HIS KINDNESS IN NOT ASKING EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS FINALLY WON MY GRATITUDE AND LOVE... BUT THIS WASN'T THE HAPPY ENDING...



I LOST POPULARITY WITH THE BOYS AT SCHOOL AND NEIL WAS COLD TOWARDS ME, SO ONE EVENING...



BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD THE HABIT ... WITH ALL THE EVIL CONSEQUENCES.





I WAS TAKEN OVER BY EFFICIENT DOCTORS AND ATTENDANTS, AND PUT IN A PADDED CELL, WHERE MY SCREAMS AND STRUGGLING WENT UNHEEDED.



NEXT DAY A DOCTOR CAME, BUT I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO RESPOND TO HIM...

YOU'VE YOUR WHOLE LIFE BEFORE YOU TO ENJOY, IF YOU'LL ONLY LISTEN TO YOUR BETTER NATURE...



I WASN'T INTERESTED IN ANYTHING THE DOCTOR SAID, BUT HE TOOK ME THROUGH THE SANATORIUM UNTIL WE STOPPED AT A BARRED DOOR...

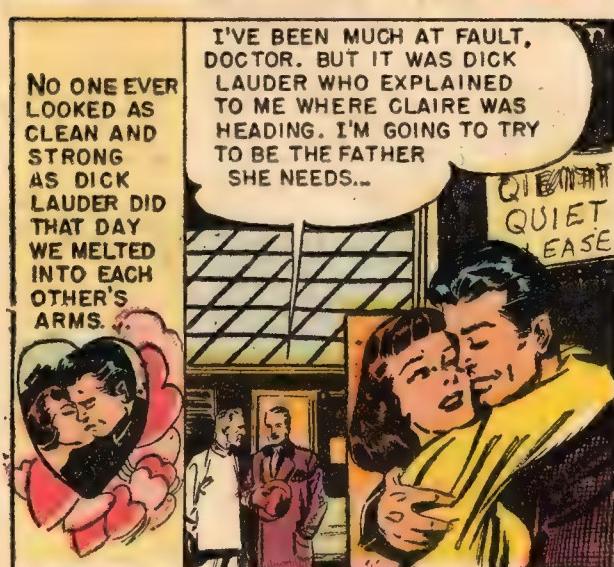


OH! THAT GIRL IS ONLY FIVE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU. SHE STARTED THE WAY YOU DID...AND WENT MUCH FURTHER. AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE!



NO ONE EVER LOOKED AS CLEAN AND STRONG AS DICK LAUDER DID THAT DAY WE MELTED INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS.

I'VE BEEN MUCH AT FAULT, DOCTOR. BUT IT WAS DICK LAUDER WHO EXPLAINED TO ME WHERE CLAIRE WAS HEADING. I'M GOING TO TRY TO BE THE FATHER SHE NEEDS...



WE WALKED OUTSIDE, DICK'S HAND IN MINE. THE AIR WAS CLEAN AND FRESH... AND LIFE WAS GOOD. A NEW WORLD WAS OPENING FOR US...TOGETHER...

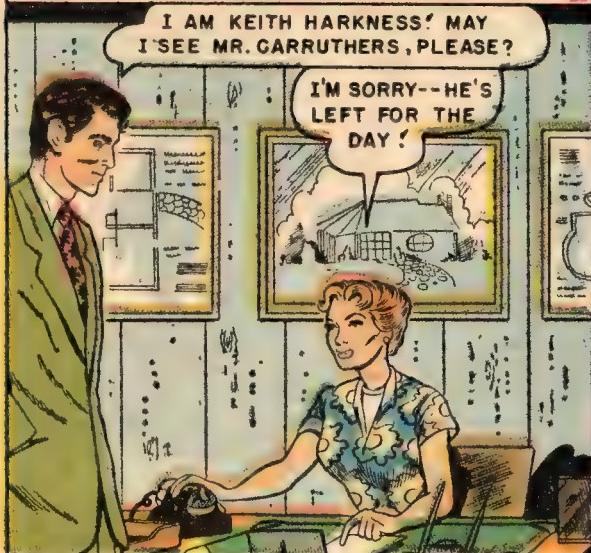


# TERROR STALKED MY LOVE



-ROMITA-ZAKARIN

IT BEGAN ONE HOT SUMMER AFTERNOON. I WAS WORKING FOR A FIRM OF ARCHITECTS IN THE CITY...



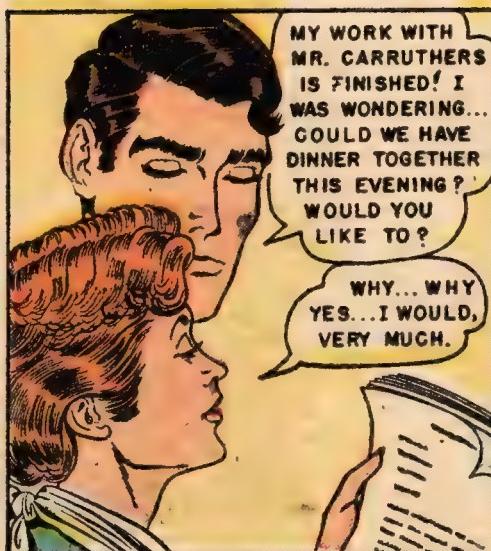
HE WAS AN ARCHITECT, AND HIS BUSINESS WITH MR. GARRUTHERS BROUGHT HIM HERE SEVERAL TIMES! HE WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY HANDSOME MAN, 28 OR 30, PERHAPS, WITH A LOOK OF SOMBER NOBILITY ABOUT HIM... A RESERVED, QUIET DIGNITY... A SENSE OF POWER...



I HAD NEVER REALIZED HE WAS GIVING ME MORE THAN A PASSING THOUGHT! THEN, SUDDENLY, ONE AFTERNOON...

SWELL JOB  
YOU DID, MY BOY! THANKS!

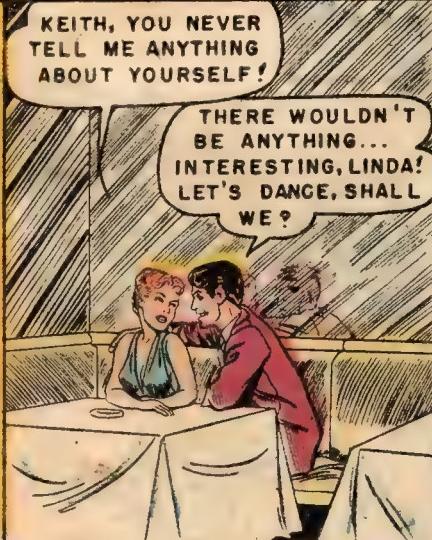
I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT!... LINDA  
SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU...



THAT WAS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL WONDERFUL EVENINGS! NEVER BEFORE HAD I MET SO FASCINATING A MAN! YET THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY STRANGE ABOUT HIM! AT TIMES HE WAS BOYISH, FUN-LOVING, BUT IN REPOSE HIS FACE ALWAYS SEEMED TO HAVE A LOOK OF BROODING MELANCHOLY... A SENSE OF MYSTERY CLUNG TO HIM...

KEITH, YOU NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF!

THERE WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING... INTERESTING, LINDA! LET'S DANCE, SHALL WE?



ALWAYS I SENSED HIS ALOOFNESS... IT WAS AS THOUGH I KNEW HIM... THAT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US WAS DEEPENING... AND YET SOMEHOW I DIDN'T KNOW THIS MAN AT ALL...

AM I FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM?  
... I WONDER...



AND WAS HE FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME?.. I REALLY THOUGHT SO, AND THEN SUDDENLY HE TELEPHONED WITH A LAME EXCUSE, BREAKING OUR DATE... A WEEK WENT BY... IT WAS AN AGONY OF SUSPENSE... I HADN'T REALIZED THE DEPTH OF MY FEELING FOR HIM. THEN ONE DAY I STOPPED IN AT HIS OFFICE...

MAY... MAY I SEE MR. HARKNESS,  
PLEASE?

SORRY... HE ISN'T IN!



HE WAS JUST ARRIVING! I MET HIM IN THE CORRIDOR AS I LEFT!

LINDA... YOU CAME...

I... I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND  
OH, KEITH, DID I OFFEND  
YOU? I'VE BEEN WONDERING...



OFFEND ME? OH LINDA...  
LINDA, MY DARLING...

KEITH...



FOR JUST THAT INSTANT HE HELD ME HUNGRILY  
IN HIS ARMS! AND THEN...

NO! NO--I MUST  
NEVER SEE YOU  
AGAIN! GO  
AWAY! PLEASE--  
PLEASE GO  
AWAY--

BUT KEITH--  
KEITH DEAR--



WHAT DARK AND TERRIBLE MYSTERY WAS  
THIS? TRAGEDY WAS STAMPED ON HIS FACE  
AND SMOLDERED IN THE DEPTHS OF HIS  
SOMBER EYES...

KEITH, TELL ME--  
WHAT IS IT? KEITH  
... DON'T LOOK  
LIKE THAT--

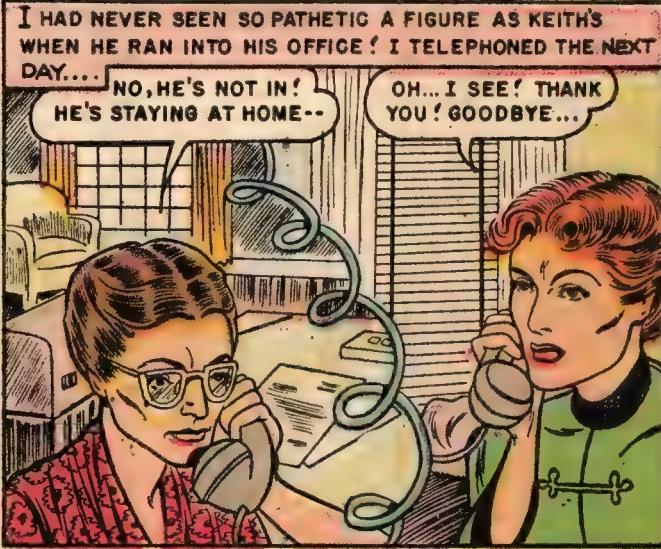
YOU MUST GO AWAY!  
I CAN'T EVER SEE YOU  
AGAIN!



I HAD NEVER SEEN SO PATHETIC A FIGURE AS KEITH'S  
WHEN HE RAN INTO HIS OFFICE! I TELEPHONED THE NEXT  
DAY....

NO, HE'S NOT IN!  
HE'S STAYING AT HOME--

OH... I SEE! THANK  
YOU! GOODBYE...



He had told  
me he lived  
near the  
little fishing  
village of  
WYNDCLIFF,  
an hour from  
the city --  
he lived alone  
with his great-  
grandmother...  
just the  
two of them...

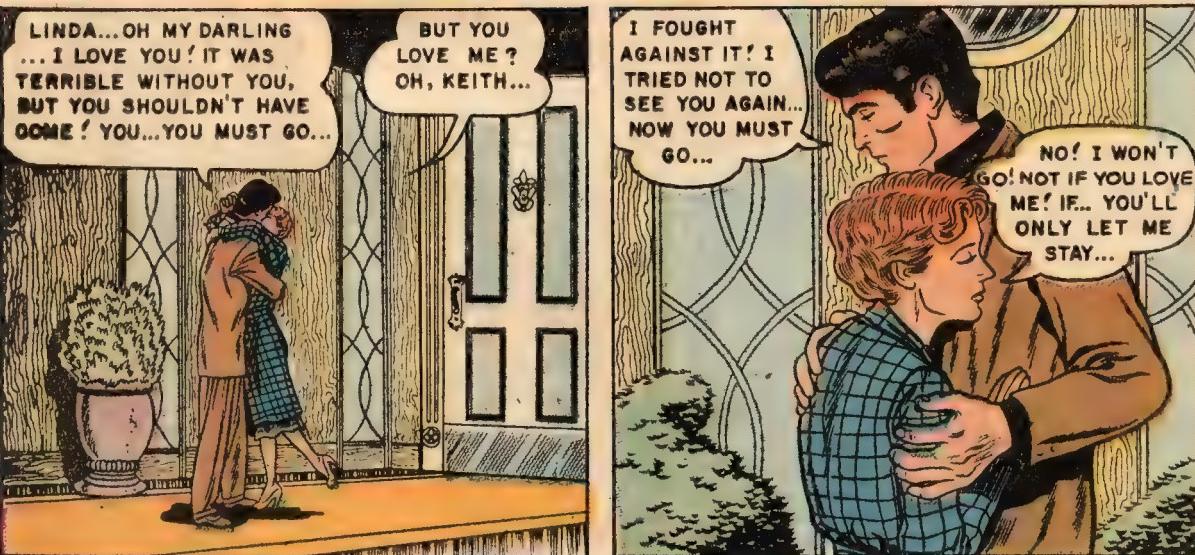
... I CAN'T LET  
HIM DROP OUT OF  
MY LIFE LIKE THIS!  
... I'VE GOT TO SEE  
HIM...



THEN AT LAST I COULD STAND IT NO LONGER... ONE WEEK-  
END, ON IMPULSE, I TOOK THE TRAIN...

UGH! WHAT A GRIM AND  
GLOOMY PLACE!



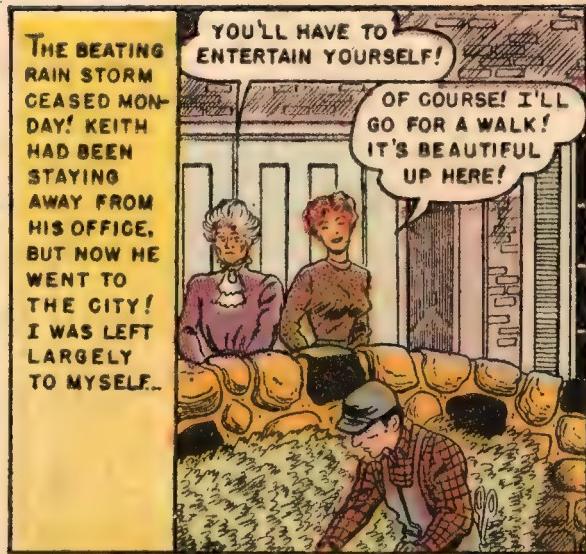


RAIN KEPT US INDOORS! THE WEEKEND PASSED... IT SEEMED THAT THE SHARP, PEERING, HOSTILE EYES OF OLD MRS. HARKNESS WERE ALWAYS UPON US... AND WAS KEITH HIMSELF AVOIDING BEING ALONG WITH ME?



THAT'S CHOPIN, ISN'T IT?  
YES! ONE OF THE NOCTURNES!

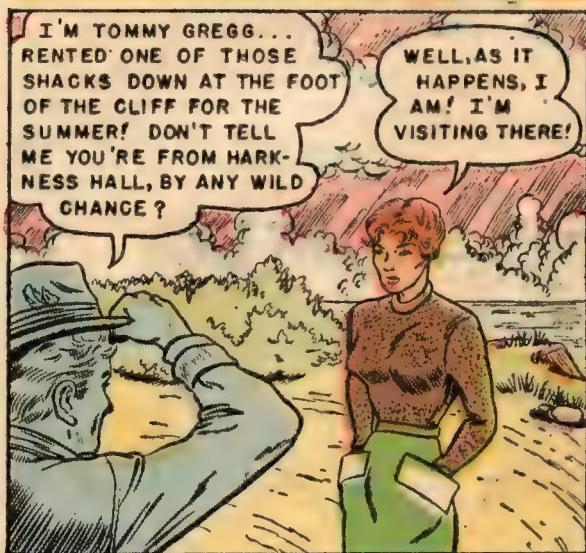
THE BEATING RAIN STORM CEASED MONDAY! KEITH HAD BEEN STAYING AWAY FROM HIS OFFICE, BUT NOW HE WENT TO THE CITY! I WAS LEFT LARGELY TO MYSELF...



OF COURSE! I'LL GO FOR A WALK! IT'S BEAUTIFUL UP HERE!



WELL! WHO'D EVER EXPECT TO BUMP INTO A PRETTY GIRL AROUND HERE! HI THERE!



I'M TOMMY GREGG... RENTED ONE OF THOSE SHACKS DOWN AT THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF FOR THE SUMMER! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FROM HARKNESS HALL, BY ANY WILD CHANGE?

WELL, AS IT HAPPENS, I AM! I'M VISITING THERE!



VISITING HARKNESS HALL! WELL WHAT D'YOU KNOW! I SURE WISH YOU LUCK! SEE YOU AGAIN, BEAUTIFUL!



HIS WORDS AND THE IRONIC WAY HE SAID THEM STRUCK A CHILL INTO ME!

...NOW WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?

KEITH CAME HOME AT NIGHTFALL... AND SUDDENLY, DURING THE EVENING...

SUPPOSE WE TAKE A WALK, SHALL WE, LINDA?

WHY--WHY  
YES, OF COURSE!



I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER... THIS MAN WHOM I LOVED, WALKING HERE SO TENSELY FIGHTING HIS LOVE FOR ME... WHY?... WHY DID HE HAVE TO FIGHT IT?

KEITH...

LINDA... LINDA...



YOU DO LOVE ME,  
LINDA? YOU DO?  
SAY IT! SAY IT!

I LOVE YOU,  
KEITH! OH,  
MY DEAREST...



OUT IN THE DARK NIGHT WE WALKED FOR A WHILE IN CONSTRAINED SILENCE! MY HEART WAS POUNDING!... OH, IF I ONLY KNEW HOW TO BREAK DOWN THIS BARRIER BETWEEN US! DESPERATELY I WANTED TO QUESTION KEITH.

IT STILL LOOKS STORMY, DOESN'T IT?

YES, A LITTLE!



DARLING, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH! I CAN'T HELP IT! I CAN'T!

WHY SHOULD YOU HELP IT?  
PLEASE, KEITH...  
TELL ME...



IT WAS AS THOUGH HE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT... DIDN'T DARE BELIEVE IT... AND THE DOUBT TORTURED HIM...

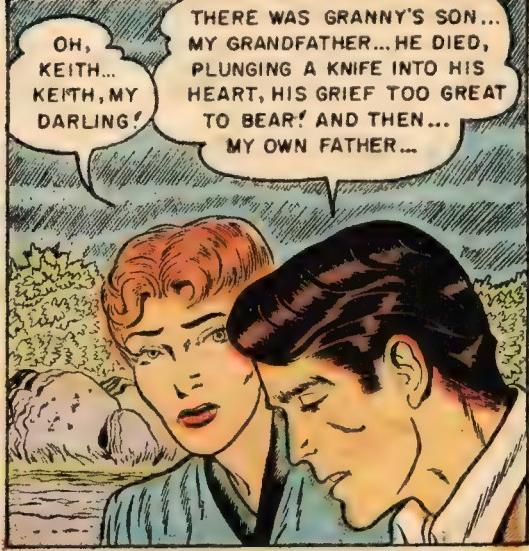
I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOUR LOVE,  
LINDA!  
I KNOW IT...

I LOVE YOU...  
I'LL ALWAYS  
LOVE YOU...  
IF ONLY  
YOU WOULD  
TELL ME...



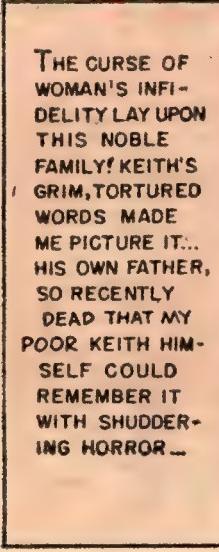


MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER AND I ARE THE LAST OF OUR FAMILY! A DOOMED FAMILY, LINDA...EVERY MAN IN IT, UP TO ME, CAME TO TRAGEDY BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR A WOMAN...SURELY IT IS IN OUR BLOOD THAT WE CANNOT SURVIVE BETRAYAL OF OUR LOVE! AND ALWAYS, UP TO NOW, WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED!

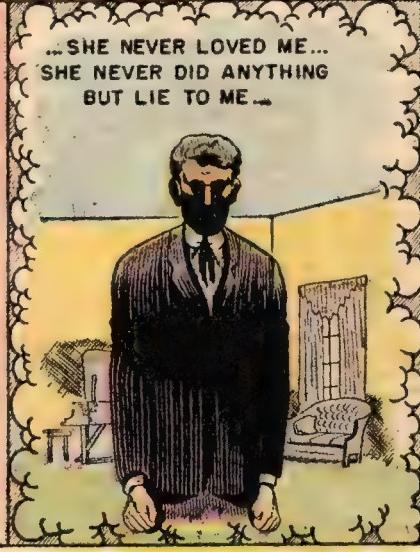


OH, KEITH... KEITH, MY DARLING!

THERE WAS GRANNY'S SON... MY GRANDFATHER...HE DIED, PLUNGING A KNIFE INTO HIS HEART, HIS GRIEF TOO GREAT TO BEAR! AND THEN... MY OWN FATHER...



THE CURSE OF WOMAN'S INFIDELITY LAY UPON THIS NOBLE FAMILY! KEITH'S GRIM, TORTURED WORDS MADE ME PICTURE IT... HIS OWN FATHER, SO RECENTLY DEAD THAT MY POOR KEITH HIMSELF COULD REMEMBER IT WITH SHUDDERING HORROR...



...SHE NEVER LOVED ME... SHE NEVER DID ANYTHING BUT LIE TO ME...



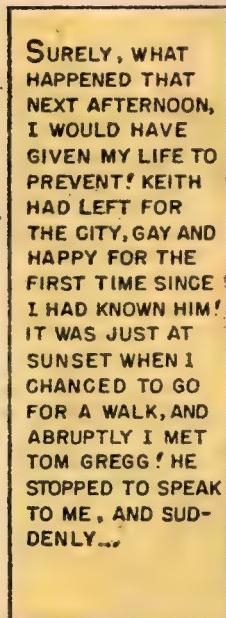
THEN HE HAD LEFT A NOTE... AND IT WAS. THE LITTLE BOY, KEITH, WHO HAD FOUND HIS CRUSHED AND BROKEN BODY AT THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF...



OH HOW WELL I UNDERSTOOD IT ALL NOW... POOR KEITH'S INHERITED, INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF LETTING HIMSELF LOVE ANY WOMAN! ...AND NOW-- MY RESPONSIBILITY, WITH HIS VERY LIFE IN MY HANDS!.. BUT I KNEW THAT THE STEADFASTNESS OF MY LOVE ALWAYS WOULD BE EQUAL TO IT...

I'LL NEVER FAIL YOU, MY DARLING!

OH, I KNOW IT, LINDA! I DO! WE'LL BE MARRIED SOON, SWEETHEART! AND TOMORROW, PERHAPS WE'LL TELL GRANNY... BUT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND... HER LOVE FOR ME...HER MIS-TRUST OF EVERY WOMAN...



SURELY, WHAT HAPPENED THAT NEXT AFTERNOON, I WOULD HAVE GIVEN MY LIFE TO PREVENT! KEITH HAD LEFT FOR THE CITY, GAY AND HAPPY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I HAD KNOWN HIM! IT WAS JUST AT SUNSET WHEN I CHANCED TO GO FOR A WALK, AND ABRUPTLY I MET TOM GREGG! HE STOPPED TO SPEAK TO ME, AND SUDDENLY...



HOW'S ABOUT A LITTLE KISS, EH BEAUTIFUL? SORT OF A RELIEF FROM THAT GLOOMY HOUSE YOU'RE LIVING IN!

WHY YOU...YOU LET ME GO! HOW DARE YOU? YOU CONCEITED LITTLE TWERP!

WELL?

FURIOUS, I BROKE AWAY AND RAN FOR THE HOUSE! PRESENTLY KEITH ARRIVED! HE WAS FILLED WITH BOYISH HAPPINESS!

LOOK, DARLING... PLANS FOR THE NEW HOUSE I'M GOING TO BUILD FOR US!

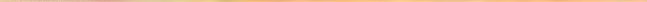
KEITH, HOW WONDERFUL!



WE HAD NOT SEEN GRANNY HARKNESS LURKING IN THE DOORWAY! AND NOW...

KEITH, YOU FOOL!  
SHE IS LIKE ALL OF THEM, OR WORSE... JUST NOW I SAW HER KISSING A MAN... IN HIS ARMS... OUT THERE ON THE CLIFF!

I...I



I SAW THEM WITH THESE BINOCULARS! SHE MET HIM YESTERDAY... AND TODAY...!

IN ANOTHER MAN'S ARMS... OH, LINDA!

BUT... BUT I CAN EXPLAIN...



FOR THAT TERRIBLE MOMENT I COULD ONLY STAND SHOCKED. TO KEITH IT WAS AS THOUGH ALL HIS WORLD WAS CRASHING AROUND HIM... HIS DESPAIRING CRY RANG OUT AS HE RAN FROM US...



KEITH... KEITH... COME BACK... COME BACK... OHH... THE CLIFF...

MY LINDA... JUST LIKE THEM ALL...



DESERPTELY I RAN, WITH TERROR CLOSE BESIDE ME, SPEEDING ME...

KEITH... YOU LINDA... LINDA...



DESERPTELY I TOLD HIM ALL THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED...

OH, KEITH, I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FELT... ALL THOSE OTHERS... BUT NOT ME KEITH... I WILL NEVER FAIL YOU!

IT'S I WHO FAILED... BUT I NEVER WILL AGAIN! I'LL TRUST YOU FOR ALWAYS! COME BACK TO THE HOUSE... WE'LL TELL GRANNY...



I HADN'T REALIZED THAT THE OLD GARDENER HAD SEEN ME WITH TOM GREGG, AND HAD HEARD WHAT WAS SAID...

LINDA! AMOS HAS TOLD ME WHAT HE SAW AND HEARD! YOU SHAME ME, LINDA... BUT IF ONLY YOU UNDERSTAND... OUR TERRIBLE PAST...



I DO UNDERSTAND, GRANNY... KEITH TOLD ME... I WANT ONLY TO BE WORTHY OF KEITH'S LOVE AND YOURS!

PERHAPS, TO OLD GRANNY HARKNESS, IT WAS LIKE A TEST OF ME, AND NOW AT LAST SHE WAS SATISFIED...

YOU'LL ALWAYS MAKE KEITH A GOOD WIFE, LINDA DEAR! THAT'S WHAT I WANT... THAT'S ALL I WANT!

OH I WILL, GRANNY! I WILL!



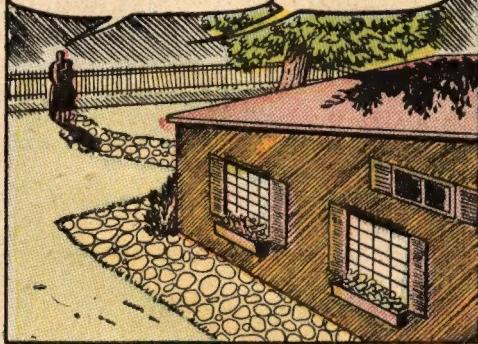
NOW IT SEEMED THAT OLD GRANNY HARKNESS HAD BEEN LIVING ON SO LONG JUST TO BE SURE OF KEITH'S HAPPINESS... A FEW MONTHS AFTER WE WERE MARRIED, SHE TRANQUILLY DIED...

I GUESS IT'S... TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE... I KNOW YOUR LOVE WILL ALWAYS BE A BEAUTIFUL THING...



IT WAS THE NEXT SPRING WHEN WE MOVED INTO OUR NEW LITTLE HOUSE, WHICH KEITH HAD BUILT QUITE NEAR THE OLD CASTLE...

LIKE OUR LOVE... GRANNY SAID THAT, BEAUTIFUL, DARLING? REMEMBER?



AS THE MONTHS AND YEARS PASSED, KEITH NEVER WANTED TO TEAR DOWN THE OLD CASTLE, AND SO IT STOOD CRUMBLING... PASSING... LIKE A SYMBOL OF OLD GRANNY HARKNESS, WHO HAD LIVED IN IT THROUGHOUT ALL OF HER LONG LIFETIME...



AND KEITH AND I KNEW... SO SURELY... THAT AHEAD OF US THERE WAS A LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS, SHELTERED IN THE SHINING GLORY OF OUR LOVE....

LOVE CAN BE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL THING... OURS IS, LINDA...

FOR ALWAYS, DARLING...



# ROMANCES of the GOLDEN WEST

WILD Bill Doolin sat tensely in the tiny church. The minister's voice began the closing benediction. Outside the little building he could plainly hear the hoofbeats of the pursuing posse. He wondered vaguely if his luck would hold. Would the service last long enough or would he be forced to leave the church and walk right into the waiting arms of the U. S. Marshal?

The service ended and Doolin found himself caught in the press of people leaving the church. As he passed through the doorway the minister caught his hand.

"How do you do, sir? I believe this is your first time here."

Doolin nodded politely, "Yes, it is, parson!"

The reverend smiled, "Too bad you came in late. You missed a fine sermon. I'm Reverend Mears. This is Deacon and Mrs Burton—and Miss Elaine Burton." He waved his hand at a middle-aged man, his wife and an extremely good looking young girl.

Doolin shook his head, "How do? My name's . . . Dailey."

Burton looked at him, "Dailey . . . A new settler, eh?"

Wild Bill nodded absently words came through.

"Where you located?"

"A — south of here — about ten miles."

Burton looked surprised, "Ten miles — you buy the Johnson place?"

Doolin looked vague as he answered in the affirmative.

Burton shook his head "Ezra Johnson said only last week he'd never sell. Said he was happy to spend his life on that quarter section. He's the most stubborn, mule-headed man around Clayville. Like to know how you talked him into it."

Wild Bill ran a hand over his chin as he looked at Burton narrowly, "I — used to be a horse trader. Well — I'd better start back . . . long ride. Good afternoon folks." Nodding curtly he walked out.

As they walked down the street of the country town Mrs. Burton continued the conversation, "You must bring your family to church next time, Mr. Dailey."

Doolin smiled "My family? I would if I had one."

Elaine, secretly studying the handsome stranger, smiled to herself. Somehow this tall, well built young man attracted her.

Burton looked up, "Alone, eh. Well now — why don't you come over to the house for a chicken dinner?"

Doolin hesitated and Elaine smiled at him, "You'd be most welcome, Mr. Dailey. I can recommend Mother's fried chicken. I baked the pies, though — but I won't vouch for them."

The sudden clamor of hoofbeats as the posse led by the marshall swept back along the road caused Doolin to look up sharply. He turned to Elaine, "I'd be happy to take you up on that invitation, Miss Burton; besides, ridin' around this time o' day's apt to get a little warm."

The dinner was over and Doolin and Elaine sat outside the Burton farmhouse on the edge of the veranda. She looked up at him, "Where did you learn your farming, Bill?"

"Back in Arkansas," he replied, "From my father. He wasn't much good at it, though."

"You ought to plant corn on your section -- if it's the one I'm thinking of."

Bill stared at her questioningly, "What do you know about farming?"

She looked at him, "I grew up on one myself — in Illinois. If I were a man I'd have a quarter section of my own and be working it right now."

Doolin regarded her peculiarly, "Why?" he said.

Elaine raised her head surprised by the strangeness and bluntness of the question, "I never thought why. I like the smell of fresh soil. I suppose I like to see things grow. It's always been a miracle to me. And it's good," she answered.

"I'm trying to get father to buy a piece of land not far from yours. I'm going to ride out and look at it next week and maybe I'll look your place over — if I'm invited."

Wild Bill smiled wryly, "Well . . . Sure you're invited. Any time."

Doolin stood in the center of the neat kitchen of the farmhouse, "Well, what's the verdict, Mr. Johnson?" He suggestively clinked the heavy gold pieces he held in his hand.

The farmer hesitated and then sighed in agreement "Three thousand dollars for this land. I can't afford to turn it down." He turned

to his wife, "Emmy, we can go back to Danfield."

Doolin looked up sharply, "Danfield?"

Johnson shook his head, "Yeah! Big excitement there last month. Bill Doolin robbed the bank. Are you acquainted with the place?"

Doolin continued to clink the coins, "Seems to me I've been there. I'll help you pack and give you a personal escort out of town." . . .

The grocer smiled as he helped Wild Bill to stow the supplies in the wagon, "What you've done in three months is hard to believe."

Doolin looked up at Elaine who stood beside him and winked at her, "I'm a fast worker."

Elaine rummaged in one of the sacks she carried. Triumphantly she came up with a small article. "I bought you a present, Bill — an elephant. They're supposed to be good luck in India."

Reaching out Bill took it with a smile, "How are they in Oklahoma?" Then, as he turned to the team, his smile faded. It couldn't be, but it was. There, tying his horse to the hitching post, was Red Buck. Little Bill stood over by the store and with him was Bitter Creek and Arkansas. The gang had come for him.

A little later, as Elaine made some purchases in the dressmaker's shop, Doolin faced Little Bill with a frown, "What's this all about?"

The others drifted up as Little Bill answered, "We figured it was high time to go back to work. We got a big job ahead — Interstate Express Company."

Doolin shook his head positively. "It's no go. I'm through boys — retired. You can cut cards for the Doolin gang now. I've got myself a farm."

The men stared at each other, then Little Bill spoke up, "Fine! We can hide out there —"

Doolin's face hardened, "Sorry boys, but that's out, too. There's a woman in my house. I got married three weeks ago."

The following day the Doolin farm had visitors. Red Buck and Bitter Creek stood in the doorway speaking to Elaine. They smiled awkwardly and Bitter Creek spoke up, "You see, ma'am, we're United States Marshals. We're trying to run down a fellow named Bill Doolin."

Elaine's eyes widened, "Doolin, the outlaw: Why I wouldn't know him if I saw him."

Red Buck shuffled a bit, "No'm, don't suppose so. He's about six foot - two. Fool you — never take him for a bad one. The last time we were on his trail he was headed this way. About three months ago — on a Sunday, I remember."

Elaine looked at the two strangely, "Sunday — ?" she said.

Bitter Creek handed her a reward poster. On it was a description of Wild Bill and a crude drawing. As she looked her body tensed. "I'll show this to my husband, but I doubt if he can help. Good day gentlemen."

A few minutes later the two outlaws were galloping down the road. Bitter Creek shook his head with self contempt, "That was a pretty low down trick . . ."

Red Buck looked at him with disgust and then chuckled, "Aw, forget it. Best thing could happen — and we need Doolin don't we —? Said so yourself, didn't you?"

Wild Bill, his face hard, stood holding the reward poster. Watching him and waiting for him to speak were Elaine, her mother and father. Finally Bill's voice rasped out, "Where did you get this?"

Elaine looked at him tensely, "Bill, I want the truth. Are you Bill Doolin or aren't you?"

He stared at her for a moment and then spoke quietly, "Yes, Elaine — I'm Doolin. Didn't know I was worth this much. The price has gone up."

Elaine stared at her husband, shock and disillusionment in her eyes, "Is that all you have to say —?" she said.

Her father moved forward, "Drive her home, mother. This is a thing for men to talk out!"

When the two had left Burton turned to Doolin "I, too, was hoping there had been some mistake. Why did you do it, Bill — why?"

Doolin slowly looked up at him, "Why? For the same reason other men have homes and get married. Had a crazy idea she'd never find out — that in time the name of Doolin would be forgotten."

Burton shook his head. "You're dead, Doolin, and I don't want my daughter married to a dead man."

Wild Bill clenched his fist, "Guess you're right Deacon. Guess the funeral procession starts from here."

Burton shook his head, "No, Doolin, it started the day you became a man against the law. With you Elaine could never live — never be free. No matter how far you took her she'd never be able to run away from this thing that is your past. There's only one way to set her free — ride out of her life and never return."

I'm not speaking as a deacon, but as a father who's thinking of his daughter's happiness . . . I leave the decision up to you, Doolin."

A short time after as Burton crossed the room to turn out the lamps, the door swung open. He turned to find Elaine framed in the doorway. "Bill — Bill — ! Where is he?"

Her father looked at her steadily, "He's gone."

Elaine whirled and stared off into the night as her father continued. 'He won't be back . . . He said you must forget Bill Dailey — because he was a man who never lived'

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